

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 3, 2004 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claims 15-21 and 44-50 stand objected to as allegedly informal. The suggested changes have been implemented with this amendment and the claims are now allowable.

Claims 29 and 44-50 stand objected to as allegedly informal. The suggested changes have been implemented with this amendment and the claims are now allowable.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §101

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. While applicant does not agree with this characterization, the preamble of the independent claims 1, 9 and 15 have been amended to clearly state that the method is “computer-implemented” and the document is “electronically perceivable”. Accordingly, the claims now comply fully with the statute and should be passed to issue.

Claim Rejection 35 USC §112

Claims 9-14, 28 and 38-43 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite.

Independent claims 9, 28 and 38 have been amended to correct the alleged indefiniteness.

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Moody in view of 5,890,177.

The Office Action states: “Regarding independent claim 22, Moody discloses an author creating an original document using a word processing program—*native/community version equivalence determiner*—which is to be sent out to editors in a local area network (col. 4, lines 20-43).

“Moreover, Moody discloses the author sends copies of the original document to other editors using email, floppy disks, etc., —*native version document sender coupled to said native version/community version determiner*--. Application programs, and floppy disks, and communications adaptor are interconnected within the same computer (col. 4, lines 33-43, col. 3, lines 27-30, 52-col. 4, line 6).

“Furthermore, Moody discloses the return of the edited copies by the editors to the original author via the network—*native/community/other converted document sender coupled to said native version document converter*--(col. 4, lines 44-51, col. 3, lines 27-30, 52-col. 4, line 6).

“Moody fails to explicitly disclose: *a native document converter*. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included a document converter in the editors’ computers connected through a local area network, because Moody teaches that the editors do not have to use the same word processing program (col. 4, lines 38-43). Thus, providing the benefit of allowing the editors to edit the document in an environment their more familiar with, which allows these editors to be more effective, and spending less time than in a word processor they’re not acquainted.

“Regarding claim 23, which depends on claim 22, Moody discloses the transmission to the edited documents via email message—*community version document message encapsulator*—

which is to be sent out to editors in a local area network (col. 4, lines 34-36). Moody fails to explicitly disclose: *a native version/other converted document attachment saver*. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have attached the documents to the email, because Moody teaches above sending the documents via the email. Thus, providing the benefit of rapid delivery of the copies of the original document using the features found in email.

“Regarding claim 24, which depends on claim 22, Moody discloses consolidating various edited copies into a final document—*transformation registry*—, and then converting the different versions into the original author’s format using filters or translators which is to be sent out to editors in a local area network (col. 4, lines 34-36).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.),

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure.¹

Claim 22 as amended contains the element "said native version document converter configured to convert the native version document to a community version and to all versions closer to said community version than the native version." This amendment finds support in the Specification, page 16, paragraph 42. While the Office Action alleges that a document converter would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, the document converter of Moody et

¹ M.P.E.P § 2143.

al. is generic in nature, simply allowing a number of users to access and edit with their local word processing program(s) a saved document. The edits are then centrally collected and a final version is made from the various edited versions. This is quite different from being configured to convert the native version document to a community version and to all versions closer to the community version than the native version. As such, applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

As to dependent claims 23-24, the argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

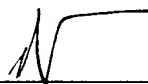
It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account # 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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